

Drinking Water Branch

Fact Sheet

Operator Certification Rule

What public water supplies must have a certified operator?

All community public water systems, all nontransient noncommunity public water systems, and any transient noncommunity public water systems that are using surface water or groundwater under the direct influence of surface water, or any transient noncommunity public water systems that require complex treatment.

What are the different types of distribution systems and what do they mean?

Class DSS (Distribution System Small) – (A) serves a population less than 3,301, and (B) has no components other than (1) pressure or (2) storage tanks. A nontransient noncommunity system serving a population less than 501 utilizing no treatment other than ion exchange or inline filtration is a DSS system.

Class DSM (Distribution System Medium) - (A) serves a population greater than 3,300 but less than 10,001 and has no mechanical means of movement of water other than (1) pressure tanks, (2) storage tanks, or (3) booster pumps to storage tanks; or (B) serves a population less than 3,301, and consists of at least (1) pumps, not including well pumps, before the entry point to the distribution system, or (2) booster pumps to storage tanks.

Class DSL (Distribution System Large) - (A) serves a population greater than 10,000; or (B) serves a population less than 10,001, and consists of at least (1) booster pumps in the distribution system other than booster pumps to storage tanks, or (2) mechanical devices for movement of water beyond storage.

What are the different types of water treatment systems and what do they mean?

Class WT1 (Water Treatment 1) - (A) serves a population less than 501; (B) is a community water system; (C) acquires water from one or both of the following: (1) ground water, (2) purchase; and (D) has one or both of the following: (1) ion exchange softening process for cation removal, (2) inline filtration device with no chemical treatment.

Class WT2 (Water Treatment 2) – with no population limitations, meets the requirements of clause (A) and either (B) or (C), or both as follows: (A) acquires water from one or both of the following: (1) ground water, (2) purchase; (B) utilizes chemical feed to achieve one of the following: (1) disinfection, (2) fluoride standardization, (3) water stabilization; (C) has one or both of the following: (1) ion exchange softening for cation removal, (2) inline filtration, if the population served is greater than 500 and less than 3,301.

Many waterworks operators have multiple licenses

Class WT3 (Water Treatment 3) - (A) acquires water from one or both of the following: (1) ground water, (2) purchase; (B) utilizes chemical feed; and (C) has one or more of the following: (1) pressure or gravity filtration; (2) lime soda softening; (3) reverse osmosis; (4) ion exchange processes if the population served is greater than 3,300; (5) inline filtration if the population served is greater than 3,300.

Class WT4 (Water Treatment 4) - (A) serves a population less than 10,001; (B) acquires water from (1) surface water, or (2) GWUDI.

Class WT5 (Water Treatment 5) - (A) serve a population greater than 10,000; (B) acquires water from (1) surface water, or (2) GWUDI.

Class WT6 (Water Treatment 6) - utilizes newly emerging treatment technology not commonly in use for drinking water treatment in Indiana.

Who administers the certification of water operators?

Indiana Department of Environment Management
OWQ Drinking Water Branch - Mail Code 66-34
100 N. Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2251
Contact: Ruby Keslar at 317-308-3305

What is required to become a certified operator?

All individuals for each class must pass an examination, have a high school education or its equivalent and possess educational skills necessary to: handle fractions and decimals; read a linear scale; calculate volumes of simple shapes; make simple computations of multiplication and division; keep records; read and write the English language to the extent of interpreting service manuals and work orders and submitting written reports; and understand basic principles of sanitation.

Each grade of water works operator certification requires a specific amount of acceptable work experience that has been obtained under the supervision of an appropriately certified operator.

What are CEUs?

CEUs are continuing education units. All certified operators are required to obtain a designated number of continuing education contact hours during their three year renewal period. CEUs are broken down into contact hours which are fifty to sixty minutes instructional sessions involving a qualified instructor or lecturer. Ten contact hours equals one CEU. Each grade of operator must complete a specific amount of contact hours in order to renew their certification. The following shows Certified Operator Class and contact hours needed for every three year renewal:

DSS	10 contact hours
DSM	15 contact hours
DSL	15 contact hours
WT1	10 contact hours
WT2	15 contact hours
WT3	25 contact hours
WT4	30 contact hours
WT5	30 contact hours
WT6	30 contact hours

Who do I contact if I have questions?

You should contact the *IDEM Drinking Water Branch*, if you have any questions. Our number is 317-308-3321. You may contact the *IDEM Environmental Helpline* at 800-451-6027 and ask them to connect you with 308-3321, or the *EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline* at 800-426-4791.

Rule Citations:

327 IAC 8-12-1, 327 IAC 8-12-1.1, 327 IAC 8-12-2, 327 IAC 8-12-3, 327 IAC 8-12-4, 327 IAC 8-12-5, 327 IAC 8-12-6, 327 IAC 8-12-7, 327 IAC 8-12-7.1, 327 IAC 8-12-8.

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